United Nations S/2006/963

Security Council

Distr.: General
12 December 2006
English
Original: Arabic

Letter dated 7 December 2006 from the Permanent Observer of the League of Arab States to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a copy of the statement issued by the Ministerial Committee on Iraq, at its meeting held at the headquarters of the General Secretariat of the League of Arab States in Cairo on 5 December 2006, concerning the grave developments taking place in Iraq (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council under article 54 of the Charter of the United Nations.

(*Signed*) Yahya **Mahmassani**
Ambassador
Head of the New York Mission

06-65653 (E) 141206 141206

Annex to the letter dated 7 December 2006 from the Permanent Observer of the League of Arab States to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Statement issued by the Ministerial Committee on Iraq

Cairo, 5 December 2006

In keeping with the responsibility of the League of Arab States towards Iraq and its people and in accordance with the appeal made by the Secretary-General, the Ministerial Committee on Iraq met on 5 December 2006 at the headquarters of the General Secretariat under the chairmanship of His Excellency Shaikh Khalid Bin Ahmed Al-Khalifa, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Bahrain, and with the presence of their Excellencies the Ministers for Foreign Affairs and Heads of Delegations of the Committee members, the Secretary-General, Mr. Mustafa Uthman Isma`il, League of Arab States Envoy and Representative of the Secretary-General in the context of the efforts to achieve Iraqi national accord.

I. Having heard the opening statement of the Chairman of the Committee and the presentation made by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Iraq and the Secretary-General and following the discussions that took place among the members of the Committee concerning the grave recent developments taking place in Iraq, the Committee, supporting the maintenance of Iraq's national unity, affirmed the following:

- Respect for Iraq's unity, sovereignty, independence and identity; rejection of calls for partition or division; and non-intervention in Iraq's internal affairs by any party whomsoever in an attempt to influence the internal situation with a view to achieving objectives that do serve the purpose of Iraqi national unity;
- The idea that national accord is the key to a solution in Iraq and that achieving national reconciliation among the various components of the Iraqi people is a fundamental requirement for bringing stability to Iraq;
- Condemnation of terrorist and criminal acts and acts of sectarian violence and murder that continue to snuff out thousands of innocent Iraqi lives, and of the forced displacement being observed in Iraq; the expression of profound concern over the chaotic security situation; support for the Iraqi Government in its effort to cope with such acts; the demand that it dissolve the militias immediately and put an end to the unlawful armed acts that increase the level of tension in Iraq;
- Its welcoming of the Makkah Al-Mukarramah declaration on the Iraqi situation, issued on 20 October 2006, relating to the rejection of accusations of religious infidelity on the part of any component of the Iraqi people, which goes against the tolerant teachings of Islam; the need to foster the spread of humanitarian values calling for fraternity, tolerance and the establishment of national unity; and the need to launch intensive, urgent efforts aimed at defusing the highly charged factional and sectarian situation;
- The need to proceed quickly to build the Iraqi armed forces and the security forces on a national and professional basis in accordance with a clearly defined

timetable synchronized with the departure of the foreign forces from Iraq and the achievement of full Iraqi sovereignty;

- Support for the Iraqi Government in its efforts aimed at establishing security and stability in Iraq and achieving national reconciliation.

II. In view of the fact that the events in Iraq warn of a real danger that menaces Iraq's unity and stability, calling for immediate Arab action to protect Iraq's future from the dangers of partition and a descent into sectarian strife that will threaten security in Iraq and have repercussions on regional stability, the Committee agreed on the following:

1. To call for the holding of the conference on Iraqi national accord provided for by the preparatory meeting held by the League of Arab States in November 2005; to continue the preparatory work for the conference until it is convened, within a period of not more than four months; to coordinate for that purpose with the Iraqi Government in consultation with the various Iraqi forces; and to request the Secretary-General to pursue the necessary contacts with the Iraqi parties;

2. To keep the meeting of the Ministerial Committee on Iraq open to permit follow-up of developments in Iraq, with the understanding that its next meeting will be held in Baghdad or another city proposed by the Iraqi Government.